

**Subject:** Re: fyi-contacting street services about sprinklers

**From:** Nate Kaplan <nate.kaplan@lacity.org>

**Date:** 05/25/2011 04:13 PM

**To:** Donald Duckworth <duckworth.donald@gmail.com>

**CC:** mark.grant@lacity.org, miki@hbdrollinger.com, JRUhlen916@aol.com

No problem

On Wed, May 25, 2011 at 1:15 PM, Donald Duckworth

<[duckworth.donald@gmail.com](mailto:duckworth.donald@gmail.com)> wrote:

That is good advice Nate. I got a little too carried away. I guess it's a measure of the frustration of being unable to make such a small change which would really benefit the Council Office (and Councilman) and its constituents. I'm way too idealistic to be this old!

On Wed, May 25, 2011 at 10:51 AM, Nate Kaplan <[nate.kaplan@lacity.org](mailto:nate.kaplan@lacity.org)> wrote:

Hi Don,

I appreciate your kind words towards our office and I'm not trying to imply you are being argumentative, I'm just trying to say that you probably don't want to bash the City Council in your emails a couple weeks before they are going to vote on the BID's extension.

"I guess the message is that the unions run the City, not our elected Council Members."

These words are probably safe with everyone copied on this email, but imagine if another councilmember from a different part of the City read this? Just be extra cautious what you put in writing.

-Nate

On Tue, May 24, 2011 at 7:47 PM, Donald Duckworth

<[duckworth.donald@gmail.com](mailto:duckworth.donald@gmail.com)> wrote:

I would never be argumentative with you Nate. We value & appreciate everything you have done to help us. Actually the entire CD11 office has been great. Our sincere heart felt thanks to all. If my perceptions as to the motivation within the City bureaucracy for resisting the BID's assuming the maintenance of this small portion of median is wrong, I apologize. I simply felt that there must be more at stake than a half mile length of medians with an maintenance cost of about \$2,000 per month. Actually I

thought that someone from the City at one point said something to the effect that this was a union issue to me. Maybe it's just that my suspicions have gotten the better of me again; it's hell being old and cynical. In any event I'm sorry; I apologize; let's move on. Ok?

May I see a complete copy of the problematic contract please? What is the total annual value of that contract? How much has been charged annually to maintaining the specific medians in question?

Of course the BID is much smaller than the City of Los Angeles, but if the City came to the BID and said we can save you money if you let us assume a service currently performed by a contracted BID vendor, there would be NO OPPOSITION from any of the BID's vendors to the re-organization of their work.

Do I believe that True Green, the City's maintenance vendor, would say "no" to a Council Office request that the small amount of median maintenance in question be transferred to the BID? (Answer: "absolutely not.")

On Tue, May 24, 2011 at 6:25 PM, Nate Kaplan <[nate.kaplan@lacity.org](mailto:nate.kaplan@lacity.org)> wrote:

To clarify, the reason the Westchester BID does not currently maintain the medians has nothing to do with unions. There is a legal preexisting contract for this service and we are trying our best to make a rare exception for the BID to gain this contract instead.

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**From:** Donald Duckworth <[duckworth.donald@gmail.com](mailto:duckworth.donald@gmail.com)>  
**To:** [rbmusella@earthlink.net](mailto:rbmusella@earthlink.net) <[rbmusella@earthlink.net](mailto:rbmusella@earthlink.net)>  
**Cc:** Nate Kaplan <[nate.kaplan@lacity.org](mailto:nate.kaplan@lacity.org)>; Mark Grant <[mark.grant@lacity.org](mailto:mark.grant@lacity.org)>; Miki Payne <[miki@hbdrollingr.com](mailto:miki@hbdrollingr.com)>; jruhlen916 <[JRuhlen916@aol.com](mailto:JRuhlen916@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Tue May 24 17:43:42 2011

**Subject:** Re: fyi-contacting street services about sprinklers

Hi Barbara...

I received your message about the sprinkler problem in the grass medians on Sepulveda. Unfortunately, until the Council Office can arrange for the BID to be the City's maintenance contractor for these medians, there is nothing the BID or its contractors can do to correct such problems even though we'd like to. John & I have been pulling our hair out in frustration over this silly situation but we are having to rely on Mark Grant and Nate Kaplan from the Council Office to

correct this situation internally. I believe they are doing everything they can to assist. I think it must serve the City's unionized employee group's efforts to reatailliate for budget cuts and drag this simply resolved community service problem out and make it as difficult as possible to correct. I guess the message is that the unions run the City, not our elected Council Members. It's really sad.

Thanks for trying to help. Mark's and Nate's email addresses are listed above.

On Tue, May 24, 2011 at 5:02 PM, Nate Kaplan  
<[nate.kaplan@lacity.org](mailto:nate.kaplan@lacity.org)> wrote:

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